



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: District Test Coordinators

FROM: Barbara Q. Beaudin, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner
Division of Assessment, Research and Technology

DATE: August 30, 2011

SUBJECT: SBAC Mathematics Content Specifications

The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) released draft Mathematics content specifications for public comment and review on Monday, August 29, 2011. Based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy content specifications provide a framework for the development of the SMARTER Balanced assessment system. SMARTER Balanced is a national consortium of states working collaboratively toward the goal of preparing all students for college and careers by creating a comprehensive assessment system for ELA and mathematics that is aligned to the CCSS. Connecticut is a governing state in SBAC and is taking an active role in the work of the consortium through participation in several workgroups.

SBAC will provide two rounds of review for the mathematics content specifications and one additional round for the previously released ELA/Literacy content specifications. The first Mathematics content specifications draft is now available for review through September 19. Click [HERE](#) for the current timeline of activities related to the content specifications. Instructions on how to provide feedback through online surveys for both individual reviewers and groups are included with the materials posted at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/Resources.aspx>.

In addition to the draft Mathematics content specifications, this link includes press materials, and a recorded webinar on evidence-based design, as well as an overview of the Mathematics content specifications.

Please forward this information to any district staff who would like to contribute to this important work. This is an opportunity for Connecticut educators to examine the Mathematics content specifications and review them critically. District level educators should be encouraged to review the content specifications even if they are unable to submit feedback by September 19. Educators may also participate in the second round of review in October.

Information about Connecticut's role in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium is available through the Student Assessment link on the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site at www.ct.gov/sde. The SBAC Web site www.smarterbalanced.org is updated periodically to inform stakeholders about the development of the next generation of assessments.

Thank you for your support as we continue to collaborate on the development of the SBAC assessment system.